

## Message Text

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14

ACTION CEQ-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-11 L-03

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SP-02 INT-05 /096 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1809

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, SPOP, OVIP, RP

SUBJECT: MANILA VISIT OF CHAIRMAN PETERSON OF COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

REF: MANILA 0718; STATE 019804 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: VISIT BY DR. PETERSON TO MANILA WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY A LENGTHY AUDIENCE WITH MRS. IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS WHO SKETCHED A GRAND DESIGN FOR A MODERN AND SPRAWLING METROPOLITAN MANILA EXTENDING TO TAGAYTAY. MRS. MARCOS DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENTS AND ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON THE ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WHICH DR. PETERSON PROMISED TO TRY TO LOCATE AND SEND. THE BALANCE OF THE VISIT GENERALLY FOLLOWED THE PROGRAM PREVIOUSLY OUTLINED WITH THE ADDITION OF TWO FIELD TRIPS WHICH FURNISHED DR. PETERSON WITH A FIRSTHAND LOOK AT THE PROGRESS OF PHILIPPINE FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES.

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1. VISIT TO MANILA ON JANUARY 28 TO 31 BY CHAIRMAN RUSSEL PETERSON AND DR. LEE TALBOT OF COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY MORE THAN ONE-HOUR LONG CALL ON MRS. IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS WHO IS FOUNDING CHAIRMAN OF THE POPULATION CENTER FOUNDATION AND OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES. IT WAS IN HER ROLE AS GOVERNOR OF METROPOLITAN MANILA, HOWEVER, THAT MRS. MARCOS DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

2. IN AN EXPANSIVE MOOD, MRS. MARCOS EXPLAINED THAT SHE HAD NO MASTER PLAN FOR METRO MANILA AS HER FRIENDS EXPECTED. WHAT SHE WANTED TO DO WAS TO SENSE AND FEEL THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE, AND ACT ACCORDINGLY. SENSING THAT HER VISITORS WERE UNFAMILIAR WITH METRO MANILA, MRS. MARCOS CALLED FOR A MAP AND POINTED OUT THE POLITICAL BOUNDARIES AND GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF THE AREA. SHE THEN TOOK A GREASE PEN AND DREW A STRAIGHT LINE ACROSS THE BAY FROM MANILA TO CAVITE. THE CURRENT RECLAMATION WOULD BE EXTENDED TO COVER THAT ENCLOSED AREA, AND THE PRESENT MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MIA) WOULD BE RELOCATED TO THE FORMER U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION AT SANGLEY POINT (CAVITE). MIA WAS A BARRIER TO COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BICOL AND THE SOUTH AND HAD TO BE REMOVED. MRS. MARCOS THEN EXTENDED THE BOUNDARIES OF METRO MANILA TO TAKE IN HALF OF CAVITE PROVINCE UP TO TAGAYTAY AND PART OF LAGUNA UP TO CALAMBA.

3. COMMENT. MRS. MARCOS DID NOT INDICATE THE TIME SPAN REQUIRED FOR THE REALIZATION OF HER GRAND DESIGN FOR A MORE MODERN AND LARGER METROPOLITAN MANILA. THE RECLAMATION PROJECT WOULD BE AN EVEN GREATER UNDERTAKING THAN THE CURRENT LAND FILL. HOWEVER, THE SOUTHERN THRUST OF HER GRAND DESIGN COINCIDES WITH THE SHIFT IN INDUSTRY AND INTEREST TOWARDS LAGUNA AS EVIDENCED BY THE RECENT OPENING OF THE SWIFT AND OWENS-CORNING JOINT VENTURE PLANTS NEAR CALAMBA. END COMMENT.

4. MRS. MARCOS DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF SQUATTERS, AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC CONTROL, AND INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION. SHE DEFENDED THE HANDLING OF THE PROPOSED REMOVAL OF SQUATTERS  
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FROM THE TONDOESTEROS (CANALS), SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING "GENTLY" TO RESETTLE THEM WITH FREE LAND. THE SQUATTERS WERE NOT ONLY POLLUTING THE ESTEROS BUT ALSO INFRINGING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, MRS. MARCOS SAID. AS FOR THE FOREIGN ELEMENTS SEEKING TO STIR UP TROUBLE, THAT IS, THE TWO FOREIGN PRIESTS (BOTH ITALIAN AND WORKING WITH THE URBAN POOR IN TONDO), THEY WERE HANDLED FIRMLY AND DEPORTED. ASKED ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE CHURCH ON BIRTH CONTROL AND FAMILY

PLANNING, MRS. MARCOS INDICATED THAT SHE HAD NEUTRALIZED THE CHURCH ON THIS ISSUE.

5. MRS. MARCOS SAID SHE WAS INTERESTED NOT ONLY IN TRAFFIC CONTROL BUT ALSO IN INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE LOCATION OF PLANTS. DR. PETERSON DESCRIBED WORK DONE BY URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION AND THE LATTER'S REPORT, "NON-CAPITAL ALTERNATIVES FOR URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION." MRS. MARCOS ASKED DR. PETERSON TO SEND THAT REPORT AS WELL AS OTHER AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT. SHE STRESSED TWICE THAT SHE WANTED SUCH INFORMATION, NOT SO THAT THE UNITED STATES "COULD POLICE US", THAT IS, TELL THE PHILIPPINES WHAT TO DO. RATHER, SHE INDICATED THAT SHE WAS WILLING TO LEARN FROM US OR PROFIT FROM OUR MISTAKES. DR. PETERSON TOLD MRS. MARCOS THAT HE WOULD TRY TO LOCATE APPROPRIATE MATERIALS AND SEND THEM TO HER.

6. VISIT GENERALLY FOLLOWED PROGRAM OUTLINED IN MANILA 0718 EXCEPT THAT A TRIP TO A RURAL HEALTH CENTER AND A VISIT TO THE MARY JOHNSTON HOSPITAL IN THE TONDO SLUMS WERE ADDED IN VIEW OF DR. PETERSON'S INTEREST IN POPULATION AFFAIRS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ENVIRONMENT, MEETING AGENDA, POLLUTION, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MANILA01724  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 138  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION CEQ  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MANILA 718, 76 STATE 19804  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MANILA VISIT OF CHAIRMAN PETERSON OF COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
**TAGS:** SENV, SPOP, OVIP, RP, (PETERSON, RUSSELL), (MARCO, IMELDA ROMUALDEZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006